

nical assistance bump up against the realities of implementation.

5. Implement recently adopted Federal, State and local plans for the restoration, revitalization and long-term protection of the Hudson River Valley.

The following are more specific elements of New York State's partnership with the Federal government that could help protect, restore and revitalize the Hudson River Valley.

## **1. Resource Protection and Management**

### **a. The Hudson River Estuary Management Program**

As already described above, the Hudson River Estuary Management Plan is a comprehensive blueprint for the restoration and protection of the river. A wide array of projects are being implemented under the plan; Federal support could assist many of them.

Key opportunities for Federal involvement include:

- Remediation of PCBs and other contaminants in the river.
- Partnering in habitat restoration.
- Designing environmentally sensitive waterfront bulkheads and piers.
- Providing technical assistance for citizen monitoring of water quality and biodiversity health.
- Supporting brownfields clean-ups and redevelopment.
- Developing a model for economic analyses of scenic protection.
- Facilitating natural resource interpretation.
- Participation in ecosystem monitoring.

### **b. Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve**

The Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve (HRNERR) is a network of four coastal wetlands located along 100 miles of the Hudson Estuary. The Reserve program is administered by New York State in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and local citizen advisory committees in the four locations with Reserve sites. The primary goal of the Reserve is the protection



and prudent management of the river's biologically diverse estuarine communities. The sites are managed as long-term natural field laboratories for research and education.

Key opportunities for Federal involvement include:

- Habitat restoration and enhancement in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Interpretive exhibits and facilities featuring Hudson River ecology.
- Research on habitat monitoring and assessment including status and trends analysis.
- Public education on coastal management issues such as recreational boating and non-point source pollution.

### **c. New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program**

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) originated in 1988 when the Governors of New York and New Jersey requested that the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary be designated as an "Estuary of National Significance" under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. The HEP Management Conference was convened as a partnership of Federal, State, and local governments, interstate agencies, scientists, civic and environmental groups, the fishing community, business and industry, working to protect and restore the New York harbor portion of the Hudson River estuary.

The Harbor Estuary Program released its Final Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan in March 1996. Major recommendations relate to management of habitat and living resources, toxic contamination, dredged material, pathogenic contamination, floatable debris, and nutrients and organic enrichment.





Key opportunities for Federal involvement include:

- Tracking, monitoring and reporting on program implementation and effectiveness.
- Seeking commitments for the implementation of plan recommendations.
- Gaining new information through monitoring, modeling, and research.
- Seeking and advocating adequate funding for plan implementation.

#### **d. Dredging Programs in New York Harbor**

In response to a bi-state agreement signed by Governors Pataki and Whitman, New York State established a dredged material management task force to coordinate New York's role in solving the Harbor's dredging problems. The agreement earmarked \$13 million to identify contaminants entering New York Harbor, including upriver sources that migrate to the harbor. Contaminants impede navigation and commercial uses due to the difficulty of disposing of polluted dredged material, as well as causing ecological impacts and resulting restrictions on fishing. A policy of pollution prevention is being pursued to reduce future dredging costs and restore the fishery.

Key opportunities for Federal involvement include:

- Development of data management systems.
- Contaminant source reduction and remediation.
- Modeling sediment transport.
- Development of biological measures of ecosystem health.

#### **e. Other Opportunities for Federal Involvement in Resource Protection**

- Provide Federal Housing Authority loans and grants to small cities and population centers to separate storm and sanitary sewers and eliminate bypassing of sanitary sewage treatment plants during times of heavy surface runoff.
- Through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, protect scenic landscapes and fish and wildlife habitats when awarding permits for new energy facilities such as transmission and pipe lines and intake structures.
- Improve project review coordination with other Federal agencies, State agencies, and local governments regarding Coastal Zone Management Act consistency responsibilities.
- Help develop watershed management programs.

### **2. Public Access**

- Require continued maintenance and repair of vehicular and pedestrian bridges over railroad tracks to the Hudson River and avoid cutting off existing access when expanding existing facilities and operations.
- Promote programs such as the joint Riverkeeper-Metropolitan Transit Authority initiative to protect and expand public access to the Hudson, which has been historically hindered by the presence of railroad tracks.
- Maintain historic railroad structures and find new uses for structures no longer needed for railroad operations. Promote the reuse of right of ways, such as through the Rails to Trails program which is converting an abandoned rail right of way into a bike path through the length of Westchester County.
- Promote the reuse of Federal surplus real property to advance community-based Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs and increase public access to the Hudson River.

### **3. Community and Waterfront Development**

- Help promote economic development along the river.
- Help the State and river communities develop environmental and economic status and trends analysis.
- Apply the benefits of the Federal Brownfields Showcase Aid program to Hudson

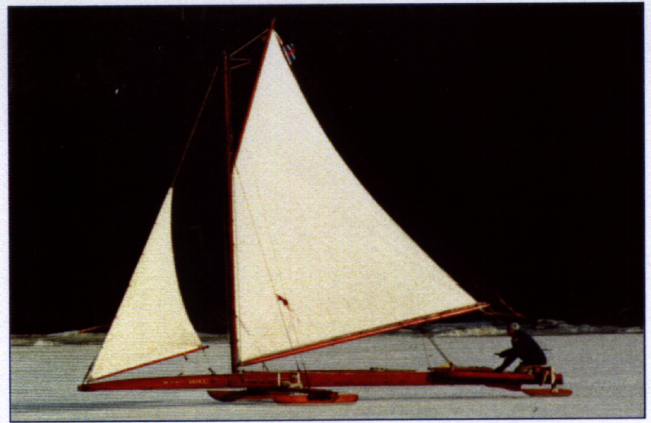


River municipalities. Provide pilot grants for brownfield redevelopment on Hudson River waterfronts.

- Promote the reuse of historic structures.
- Assist in the redevelopment of the Port of Newburgh and the continued development of the Port of Albany-Rensselaer to once again make the Hudson River a major economic gateway to the west.
- Provide resources for the revitalization of the shoreline infrastructure for commercial and recreational purposes.
- Increase participation in the development of Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans in communities along the navigable portions of the river, including the area above the Troy Dam.
- Assist, through the departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Commerce and Interior in creating an overall waterfront strategy in the development of the Hudson Valley as a major, worldwide tourist destination.
- Designate economic development zones in those Local Waterfront Revitalization and Greenway communities seeking urban redevelopment.
- Create a economic development initiative for the Hudson River similar to that created by HUD for the State Canal System Corridor.
- Expand HUD's Small Cities Program to revitalize waterfront commercial districts.
- Support artists and art programs that contribute to the variety of uses on revitalized and redeveloping waterfronts.
- Help communities design environmentally sensitive and commercially useful waterfront bulkheads and piers.

#### 4. Tourism

- Provide interpretive assistance in the development of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.
- Increase the level of funding to local government and non-profit organizations for survey, preservation, and restoration of historic structures and landscapes.
- Through the National Park Service, work with local historic sites to develop inter-site shuttle service to reduce traffic and avoid the need to redesign historic rural road corridors. Connect shuttles with rail and waterborne transportation as well as park and ride facilities.



- Facilitate natural and cultural resource interpretation.

- Promote the region as a historic, cultural and recreational resource.

- Increase participation in the Federal Certified Local Government historic preservation program.

- Sponsor national and regional conferences on tourism similar to the 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism in order to highlight the importance of tourism and coordinate Federal, State and local efforts.

- Promote public-private partnerships which utilize Federal, State and private funding sources, such as the Heritage Area Interpretive Visitor Center in New York City.



#### 5. Agriculture

- Increase participation in the Agricultural Environmental Management Initiative, a program that encourages interagency cooperation that is now being tested in a pilot program in the Wappingers Creek Watershed, Dutchess County.
- Improve coordination of State and Federal farmland protection programs that fund the pur